



EPTHIANURA AURIFRONS: *Gould*

G. Gould and H.C. Beckler del.

Hallifax del. 1841

EPHIANURA AURIFRONS, *Gould.*

Orange-fronted Ephianura.

Ephianura aurifrons, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part V. p. 148 ; and in Syn. Birds of Australia, Part IV.

As long since as the year 1837 I had the pleasure of characterizing this species at one of the scientific meetings of the Zoological Society of London, from a specimen which had been presented to the Society's collection by Lieut. Breton, R.N., a gentleman much attached to zoological science, as exemplified by his numerous donations to that Society, and in his "Excursions in New South Wales, Western Australia and Van Diemen's Land."

The Orange-fronted Ephianura must be regarded as a bird of the greatest rarity, for the specimen above mentioned is the only one that has ever come under my notice, and in all probability it is quite unique ; hence this is another of the birds to which I would wish to direct the attention of residents in New South Wales, particularly those who have an opportunity of visiting the locality in which it was seen by Lieut. Breton, who, when speaking of Gammon Plains, New South Wales, in the work above mentioned, says "we shot also some *Platypi*, and a small bird like a Mule Canary (a species of *Saxicola*) ; this last is exceedingly rare in the colony, and I am not aware that any other person possesses a specimen ; there were only three together, and the natives said they had never seen any before."

In the lengthened wing, largely developed tertiaries, and in the square form of the tail, it offers a greater alliance to *Ephianura* than to any other genus, and there I have provisionally placed it ; future research, however, and a knowledge of its habits and nidification, will determine the justice of this opinion, or the propriety of separating it into a distinct genus.

Head, upper tail-coverts, sides of the neck, breast and all the under surface fine golden orange, which is richest on the forehead and centre of the abdomen ; back olive ; wings brown, margined with olive ; tail brownish black, each feather except the two middle ones having an oval spot of white on the inner web at the tip ; chin and centre of the throat black ; bill black ; feet brown.

The figure is of the natural size.